UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ABHINAV BHATNAGAR,

CERTIFIED

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. C07-02669

JASON INGRASSIA, individually) and in his official capacity;) COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA; and CITY OF SAN RAMON,

Defendants.

DEPOSITION OF ABHINAV BHATNAGAR

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

10:00 a.m.

McNamara, Dodge, Ney, Beatty, Slattery, Pfalzer, Borges & Brothers, LLP 1931 San Miguel Walnut Creek, California

> Monica A. Comer License Number 11017

07-489MC





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1	APPEARANCES
2	
3	For the Plaintiff:
4	JUSTICE FIRST, LLP
5	BY: JENNY C. HUANG MICHAEL J. SOLIS, FELLOW
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7	
8	For the Defendant, Jason Ingrassia:
9	MCNAMARA, DODGE, NEY, BEATTY, SLATTERY, PFALZER, BORGES & BROTHERS, LLP BY: JAMES FITZGERALD, III
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11	WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596 925-817-3826
12	For the Defendant, Contra Costa County:
13	CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
14	COUNTY COUNSEL BY: GREGORY C. HARVEY
15	ASSISTANT COUNTY COUNSEL 651 PINE STREET, 9TH FLOOR
16	MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA 94553-1229 925-335-1890
17	The Videographer:
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21	
22	Also Present: LT. ERIC NAVARRO
23	JASON INGRASSIA
24	000
25	

1	test, you were being cooperative with him, you had told
2	him that you had just come in to get gas. You had told
3	him you had been drinking. Are all those three are
4	those three facts true?
5	MS. HUANG: Objection. I believe that
. 6	mischaracterizes his testimony.
7	MR. HARVEY: It's not asking what his testimony
8	is. It's asking whether those three facts are true. Do
9	you understand that question?
10	MS. HUANG: Objection. Compound question.
11	MR. HARVEY: All right. Let me do it one at a
12	time.
13	Q BY MR. HARVEY: You told him you had been
14	drinking; yes?
15	A Yes.
16	Q You had told him that you had just driven in to
17	buy gas when he asked you about whether you had been
18	across the street at the bar?
19	A I told him yes, you know, I didn't come from
20	the bar.
21	Q And you told him you had just come in to buy
22	gas?
23	A Yeah, I was getting gas. I must have told him,
24	ves.
25	Q All right. And you told him that you had had
:	

Yes, I mean --Α 1 2 0 All right. You believe in being cooperative with law enforcement officers; is that right? 3 Α Yes, sir. 4 And when he asked you the questions about 5 б drinking you wanted to help him by answering because you had a relative who had been killed by a drunk driver; is that right? 8 Yes, sir. 9 Α 10 You wanted to be cooperative with Officer 11 Ingrassia in the early morning hours of May 20th, 2006, 12 at the Valero gas station; is that right? 13 I was cooperative with him, sir. I see. You wanted to do whatever he asked to 14 Q you do to keep -- help keep drunk drivers off the road; 15 16 is that right? 17 Yes, sir, I believe that. Α 18 0 All right. And you told Officer Ingrassia that 19 you had been drinking that night? 20 Yes, sir. Α 21 And you told him you had two drinks that night? 22 <u>Yes, sir.</u> 23 0 And you told him that you had had cough 24 medicine that night? 25 Yes, sir.

1	Q A cough syrup?
2	A Yes, sir.
3	Q Do you know what the alcoholic content of the
4	cough syrup was?
5	A I don't know.
6	Q What brand was it?
7	MS. HUANG: Objection. Asked and answered.
8	MR. HARVEY: I understand.
9	THE WITNESS: I don't remember, you know, what.
10	Q BY MR. HARVEY: <u>Do you know how many doses of</u>
11	cough medicine you had had that night?
12	A I had cough syrup all day long.
13	O All day long?
14	A I had taken in the afternoon once and then in
15	the nighttime after, so it was like twice, yeah, but the
16	one in the afternoon was a lot earlier.
17	Q As you sit here today, there are three or four
18	brands of cough medicine that you use?
19	A Yeah, Walgreen's, you know, when I go to
20	Walgreen's or Longs.
21	Q So you use the store brand of Walgreen's or
22	Longs because it's cheaper?
23	MS. HUANG: Objection. Assumes facts not in
24	evidence.
25	Q BY MR. HARVEY: That's question. Do you buy

remember that part. 1 0 Okay. 2 I might have or I might not to be --3 Are there things about this incident that you 4 Q don't remember? Things that he may have asked you that 5 you don't remember? 6 I just today going through documents with the 7 counsel, and what I remember, I answered what I 8 remembered. 9 0 That's right. I understand you're answering 10 what you remember, but there -- I am asking you now when 11 you sat down to review the documents, did they help 12 refresh your recollection? 13 Yeah, I had not the seen police report for a 14 long time. 15 All right. So in your main memory, other than 16 what you found out from the documents you may have 17 forgotten some of the details of these events; is that 18 right? Until you reviewed the documents? 19 I remember mainly everything. 20 Α You remember mainly everything. Okay. When 21 Q you were speaking with Officer Ingrassia he asked you if 22 you had been drinking; is that right? 23 Yes, sir. 24 A That was one of his first questions to you; 25 0

1	correct?
2	A No, sir. He asked me first, like, did you come
3	from the bar.
4	Q His next question after that was have you been
5	drinking after you said no?
6	A No, he said, like, we find a lot of drunk
7	people here, it's weekend, Friday night or something,
8	and we find a lot of drunk people here. It is the only
9	club or bar here.
10	Q Right. I understand that. That's a statement.
11	His next question to you was have you been drinking?
12	A Yes, I can say that was the one.
13	Q Okay. And because you believe in respecting
14	people, especially law law officers, you were
15	answering his questions; right?
16	A Yes, sir.
17	Q And because of that respect, you believe that
18	you should do what the law enforcement officers ask you
19	to do; is that right?
20	A I respect the law. I respect
21	Q Listen my question, though. I understand you
22	respect the law, we established that with the last
23	question. I am asking you now because of that respect,
24	you believed at that time you should do what the officer
25	told you to do; is that right?

1	A Yes, I mean
2	Q All right. You believe in being cooperative
3	with law enforcement officers; is that right?
4	A Yes, sir.
5	Q And when he asked you the questions about
6	drinking you wanted to help him by answering because you
7	had a relative who had been killed by a drunk driver; is
8	that right?
<i>9</i>	A Yes, sir.
10	Q You wanted to be cooperative with Officer
11	Ingrassia in the early morning hours of May 20th, 2006,
12	at the Valero gas station; is that right?
13	A I was cooperative with him, sir.
14	Q <u>I see. You wanted to do whatever he asked</u> to
15	you do to keep help keep drunk drivers off the road;
16	is that right?
17	A Yes, sir, I believe that.
18	Q All right. And you told Officer Ingrassia that
19	you had been drinking that night?
20	A Yes, sir.
21	Q And you told him you had two drinks that night?
22	A Yes, sir.
23	Q And you told him that you had had cough
24	medicine that night?
25	A Yes, sir.

1	Q What did you tell him you were sick from?
2	A My contact lenses were hurting. They were old,
3	so. He did ask me, can you do some physical test. And
4	I just listened to him, whatever he told me to do.
5	Q Did Ingrassia tell you that before you did the
6	field sobriety test that your eyes were bloodshot?
7	A No, he never said my eyes were bloodshot.
8	Q Did he ever tell you that he could smell the
9	odor of alcoholic beverage on your person?
10	A No, he didn't say anything like that.
11	Q Okay. He asked you to perform some field
12	sobriety tests?
13	A Yes, sir.
14	Q And you agreed to do so?
15	A I'm sorry.
16	O You agreed to do so?
17	A Yes, sir.
18	Q And can you tell us what he asked you to do?
19	A As to my recollection I remember he told me to
20	walk in a straight line. Lift my leg up. That's all I
21	remember.
22	Q In your mind, did you have any opinion as to
23	whether or not you were able to do those things?
24 .	A Yes.
25	Q Okay.
	1

I did perfect. A 1 Q Okay. In your opinion you did perfectly? 2 A Yes. 3 Did Officer Ingrassia tell you that he had a ~ 4 O slightly different opinion? 5 He didn't say anything about those physical 6 7 tests. Okay. Did he ask you to do what's called a PAS 0 8 test, P-a-s? 9 He just told me to blow on this. You have to 10 just go ahead and blow on this. 11 Okay. And did you do that? 12 Yes, sir. A 13 14 Did you guys have any conversation up to this point when you are blowing on the PAS machine that we 15 haven't talked about? 16 17 That's it. He told me to blow again on the PAS device. 18 19 Okay. I just want to emphasize again the reason I am asking these questions is I want there, you 20 were. So one of the reasons that I do the deposition is 21 to know everything you know about it so that I can 22 evaluate it. So that's why I am asking these things, 23 24 and I want to make sure I know everything you know. so is there anything else, any other conversation you had

25

1	A I don't remember, I don't think so he had any
2	conversation. Mainly it was Officer Ingrassia all the
3	time, even in the field sobriety test. He was the one
4	telling me to do the test and everything.
5	Q Did Officer Ingrassia how many field
6	sobriety tests did Officer Ingrassia do with you?
7	MS. HUANG: Objection. Asked and answered.
8	THE WITNESS: I believe at least two. Two I
9	remember. I don't know. Maybe three, but at least two.
10	He did tell me to do those.
11	Q BY MR. HARVEY: So he asked you to count
12	backwards?
13	A I don't think so. He told me to walk in a
14	straight line. And the leg one. I don't think he told
15	me to count backwards. I don't remember. I don't think
16	so. What do you mean, like count what?
17	Q You don't remember counting for Officer
18	I <u>ngrassia?</u>
19	A No, it was more like he told me to walk, and
20	the leg one.
21	Q No, I have got that. He told you to walk, he
22	told you to stand on one leg, but did he also tell you
23	to count?
24	A No, he didn't tell me to
25	Q Is it your testimony here today that you have

1	never testified under oath that he told you to count?
2	A Maybe. I don't really remember. I remember
3	these two for sure. I don't remember
4	Q So you don't remember all of the ones that he
5	asked you to do?
6	A Yes. I don't remember right now. You know,
7	<u>it's been a while.</u>
8	Q Okay. After he asked you to do the field
9	sobriety test, he asked you to blow into the PAS device;
LO	is that right?
11	A Yes, sir. He told me to blow at some device.
12	I didn't know what the device was.
13	Q And you were cooperating with him, so you did
14	that?
15	A Yes, sir.
16	MS. HUANG: Objection. Asked and answered.
17	Q BY MR. HARVEY: And when you you blew into
18	the PAS device, did he tell you that you had blown over
19	the limit?
20	A No, he told me to blow again, made me blow many
21	times.
22	Q How many times did you blow into the PAS
23	device?
24	A Many. I don't know. He made me blow many
25	times. Six, seven times, something like that.

1	A I did perfect.
2	Q Okay. In your opinion you did perfectly?
3	A Yes.
4	Q Did Officer Ingrassia tell you that he had a
5	slightly different opinion?
6	A He didn't say anything about those physical
7	tests.
8	Q Okay. Did he ask you to do what's called a PAS
9	test, P-a-s?
10	A He just told me to blow on this. You have to
11	just go ahead and blow on this.
12	Q Okay. And did you do that?
13	A Yes, sir.
14	Q Did you guys have any conversation up to this
15	point when you are blowing on the PAS machine that we
16	haven't talked about?
17	A That's it. He told me to blow again on the PAS
18	device.
19	Q Okay. I just want to emphasize again the
20	reason I am asking these questions is I want there, you
21	were. So one of the reasons that I do the deposition is
22	to know everything you know about it so that I can
23	evaluate it. So that's why I am asking these things,
24	and I want to make sure I know everything you know. so
25	is there anything else, any other conversation you had

1	never testified under oath that he told you to count?
2	A Maybe. I don't really remember. I remember
3	these two for sure. I don't remember
4	Q So you don't remember all of the ones that he
5	asked you to do?
6	A Yes. I don't remember right now. You know,
7	it's been a while.
8	Q Okay. After he asked you to do the field
9	sobriety test, he asked you to blow into the PAS device;
LO	is that right?
Ll	A Yes, sir. He told me to blow at some device.
L2	I didn't know what the device was.
.3	Q And you were cooperating with him, so you did
L4	that?
.5	A Yes, sir.
.6	MS. HUANG: Objection. Asked and answered.
.7	Q BY MR. HARVEY: And when you you blew into
.8	the PAS device, did he tell you that you had blown over
.9	the limit?
20	A No, he told me to blow again, made me blow many
21	times.
22	Q How many times did you blow into the PAS
3	device?
4	A Many. I don't know. He made me blow many
:5	times. Six, seven times, something like that.

1	Q Do you know on which breaths he tested you?
2	A I'm sorry, what breath? Like he told me to
3	blow on
4	Q He just told you to blow, but he didn't tell
5	you when he was actually testing or taking the samples,
6	did he?
7	A No, he just kept on telling me blow, blow
8	again.
9	Q And after he checked out what the PAS device
10	said, was that the first time he told you you are under
11	arrest?
12	A No, he never told me under arrest any time.
13	Q It was after that that he told you cuff up?
14	A No, it was six, seven times.
15	Q After the PAS test that's when he told you to
16	cuff up; is that right?
17	A Yeah, but I think the last time he said, you
18	know, put your hands behind.
19	Q All right. So before that did you have any
20	sense that you were about to be arrested?
21	A I don't know. I was cooperating with the
22	officer, you know.
23	Q My question was up to the point at which he
24	asked you to put your hands behind your back to cuff up,
25	did you have any sense that you were being arrested?

with Ingrassia up to now that we haven't talked about? 1 MS. HUANG: Objection. Vague. 2 THE WITNESS: Whatever interaction with 3 Ingrassia, I told you, to now, whatever, until now, at 4 the gas station. That's it. 5 BY MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. Nothing -- you've 6 told me everything that happened up to the point where 7 you take the PAS test? 8 A It's --9 MS. HUANG: Objection. Vague. 10 THE WITNESS: The girl at the gas station made 11 a remark, you know, you guys look good in the uniform. 12 I don't know what she said, but she made a remark on 13 their uniform, when she was talking to the other 14 officer, too, and the other officer was real friendly 15 with her. 16 BY MR. FITZGERALD: Okay. But that didn't have 17 anything to do with you and Ingrassia? 18 19 A No. Okay. So have you told me everything that 20 happened between you and Ingrassia up to this point 21 where he asked you to blow in the PAS machine? 22 MS. HUANG: Objection. Vague. 23 THE WITNESS: Yeah. He made me blow many times 24 25 on this device.

1	Q BY MR. FITZGERALD: Did you ask him how you did
2	or did he tell you how you did?
3	A I did ask him.
4	Q What did he say?
5	A He said you are on the borderline.
6	Q Okay. He said you are on the borderline?
7	A Yeah.
8	Q Okay.
9	A Yes. I'm sorry.
10	Q And what did he say after that?
11	A He said put your hands behind, and handcuffed
12	me and he took my wallet and handkerchief, or I don't
13	remember if I had any medications or something, but
14	whatever I had in my pockets he took.
15	Q So he patted you down before he put you in the
16	police car?
17	A Yes.
18	Q Okay. Up to this point in time, had Officer
19	Ingrassia said anything to you that you thought was
20	inappropriate?
21	A He had not said anything, but I felt weird that
22	I was being where this other person, they were not
23	doing anything to that girl.
24	Q Okay. Did was Officer Ingrassia rude to you
25	in any way up to this point in time?
J	